

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANTANA 01564 171413Z
ACTION L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 875
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 1564

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ICJ, MA, EG
SUBJ: NOMINATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

REF: A) STATE 204893; B) STATE 203369

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR OF MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS,
HENRY RAZAFINDRATOVO, TOLD ME AUGUST 17 THAT THERE
WOULD BE NO AGREED AFRICAN CANDIDATE FOR THE ICJ. HE
HAD TRIED DURING THE RECENT KHARTOUM OAU SUMMIT TO GET THE
EGYPTIANS TO WITHDRAW THEIR CANDIDATE, POINTING OUT THAT
EGYPT HAD HAD A JUDGE ON THE COURT FOR 19 YEARS AND
OCCUPIED A DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF POSITIONS ON BEHALF OF
AFRICA IN VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL BODIES. BUT EGYPTIANS
HAD REFUSED.

2. I ALSO DISCUSSED MATTER WITH JUDGE EDILBERT RAZAFINDRALAMBO,
AT A NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION, WITHOUT TELLING HIM (OR
RAZAFINDRATOVO) THAT US NATIONAL GROUP HAD DECIDED TO NOMINATE
EGYPTIAN CANDIDATE RATHER THAN HIM. HE SAID REASON EGYPTIANS
DID NOT WITHDRAW THEIR NOMINEE WAS THAT JUDGE
EL-ERIAN HAD BEEN CAMPAIGNING FOR THE JOB FOR MANY YEARS AND
THAT HE WOULD AT ANY RATE BE OBLIGED TO RETIRE IN THREE
YEARS. ELECTION TO ICJ WOULD THEREFORE PROVIDE A
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PAGE 02 ANTANA 01564 171413Z

FITTING CONCLUSION TO HIS CAREER. RAZAFINDRALAMBO
SAID HE STILL HAD HOPES OF BEING ELECTED, AND
WOULD CONTINUE TO CAMPAIGN FOR POSITION AT 33RD
UNGA WHERE HE IS TO BE MEMBER OF MALAGASY DELEGATION.BARRETT

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